



THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Copyright law serves a critical role in promoting and disseminating American works of authorship. Copyright protection helps to sustain large businesses, small companies, and individual creators in the creative industries, including those involving the arts, entertainment, technology, and information sectors. The Copyright Office serves the Nation by analyzing the copyright law from all perspectives, providing leadership and impartial expertise on questions of copyright law and policy, and developing policy initiatives to protect creative content effectively while being flexible enough to support uses of copyrighted works in new ways.

The Copyright Office has administered the Copyright Act, through registration and recordation practices, for over 125 years. Copyright functions were centralized within the Library of Congress over 150 years ago in 1870, and the Copyright Office became a separate department of the Library of Congress in 1897. Congress has identified several critical law and policy functions of the Copyright Office, including those described in section 701(b) of Title 17:

- Advising Congress on domestic and international copyright issues;
- Providing assistance and information to other federal agencies (like the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the Department of Justice) and the courts;
- Participating on U.S. delegations in meetings with foreign governments and intergovernmental meetings (such as those at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)); and
- Conducting studies and programs regarding copyright, including educational programs conducted cooperatively with international intergovernmental organizations and foreign intellectual property offices.

The Office of Policy and International Affairs (PIA) within the Copyright Office plays a significant role in executing these legislative mandates, and is the division responsible for domestic and international legal and policy issues. PIA is headed by the Associate Register of Copyrights and Director of Policy and International Affairs, and is staffed by attorneys who bring a variety of experiences from their prior copyright-related work before joining the Office. The Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) also is part of PIA. OCE is led by the Chief Economist and is staffed by another economist and a statistician.

DOMESTIC POLICY

PIA works closely with congressional offices on domestic copyright legislation and policy matters, including by providing detailed technical advice on legislative copyright proposals and by responding to congressional inquiries. PIA, along with the Office of the General Counsel and other directorates, supports the Register of Copyrights' testimony before congressional committees on proposed or pending copyright legislation, as well as oversight and appropriations hearings.

Some of PIA's work is illustrated by its work in supporting the Register and the Office by conducting comprehensive legal analyses and studies for the benefit of Congress and the public. Office reports and letters where PIA attorneys have had a leading role include: *Technical Measures Consultations* (2022); *Standard Technical Measures and Section 512* (2022); *Copyright Protections for Press Publishers* (2022); *Section 512 of Title 17* (2020); *Authors, Attribution, and Integrity: Examining Moral Rights in the United States* (2019); *Section 108 Discussion Document* (2017); congressional letter on a mass digitization pilot program (2017); *The Making Available Right in the United States* (2016); *Orphan Works and Mass Digitization* (2015); *Resale Royalties: An Updated Analysis* (2013); and *Legal Issues in Mass Digitization* (2011).

PIA also has played a substantial role in the Office's initiative on copyright and generative artificial intelligence, contributing to each Part of the Office's multi-part report on *Copyright and Artificial Intelligence*. PIA has contributed to other Office reports, such as *Non-Fungible Tokens and Intellectual Property* (2024), conducted jointly with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; *Electronic Deposits and Best Edition Study* (2022); *Section 1201 Study* (2017); *Copyright Small Claims* (2013); and *Federal Copyright Protection for Pre-1972 Sound Recordings* (2011). Furthermore, PIA was part of the large review team resulting in the *Compendium of U.S. Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition* (2014), as well as its 2017 and 2021 updates. PIA attorneys also serve on and support the work of the Review Board on second appeals of refusals of copyright registration.

Through OCE, PIA provides expert economic analysis and advice on copyright policy. Recent OCE reports include: *The Geography of Copyright Registrations* (2024); *The Resilience of Creativity* (2024); and *Women in the Copyright System* (2022). OCE also makes bulk datasets from the copyright registration and recordation system publicly available, allowing researchers to access and analyze nearly all digital copyright registrations and recordations.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

PIA attorneys have substantial expertise in foreign copyright issues and international copyright treaty obligations. They engage in complex work on the copyright issues at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and other multilateral fora, and also serve on U.S. government delegations for bilateral and regional trade agreements between the United States and other countries. Working with interagency colleagues, PIA provides advice to foreign governments on legal analyses of their copyright laws and enforcement regimes.

The Copyright Office promotes the development of balanced copyright systems, nationally and internationally. To this end, PIA provides and participates in technical assistance and capacity-building programs and conferences with foreign governments, often working with interagency colleagues. PIA's signature biennial training event with WIPO is the International Copyright Institute (ICI), which brings together U.S. copyright experts with senior leaders of foreign copyright offices from developing countries and countries in transition. The most recent ICI was held in September 2025 and included 18 copyright officials from other countries.